

April 14, 1983

LB 214

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I move we adopt the E & R amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All those in favor say aye, opposed nay. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill, Senator Hoagland had an amendment on page 1005. I understand you wish to withdraw that one, Senator.

SPEAKER NICHOL: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Hoagland would now move to amend the bill, Mr. President. The amendment is on page 1016 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, I refer your attention to page 1016 of the Journal where this amendment is printed. This amendment quite simply would include elected officials in Omaha and Lincoln within the conflicts of interest disclosure provisions of the Sunshine Act. This has been printed now for a significant period of time. I have discussed it with Senator Hefner and discussed it with several members of the Omaha and Lincoln delegations. To give the body a little history, when the Sunshine Act was passed in 1976 a decision was made on the floor to include all elected county officials and in some instances appointed county officials and exclude all elected and appointed city officials. Now for several years I have been troubled by the fact that the elected officials of the two most populous cities in this state are not covered by the very basic conflict of interest disclosure provisions that apply to state legislators and all other state elected officials and many state appointed officials. If this amendment is adopted why elected Omaha and Lincoln city officials will have to fill out and file the same disclosure statement that we, as legislators, have to complete and file. You will recall we just did ours April 1st of this year. Now I have also discussed this with several members of the Omaha City Council and I know that many of them are favorably disposed and I know also from my conversations with them that none of them were taking this personally. They recognize that from an appearance point of view and from a substantive point of view it does make sense to require a legitimate disclosure from elected officials in the two major cities. As I understand it most members of the Omaha and Lincoln delegations have no objection to this amendment. I would hope that it is adopted and would be pleased to answer questions any of you might have about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.